



The Daily

Statistics Canada

Friday, August 11, 1995
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

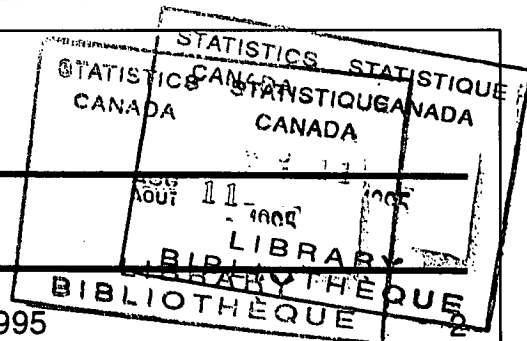
- **New motor vehicle sales, first half 1995 and June 1995**
New vehicle sales in the first half of this year were well below sales in the first half of last year (-9.6%). In fact, sales in the first half of 1995 were at their lowest level since 1983.

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MAJOR RELEASES

New motor vehicle sales

First half 1995 and June 1995

New vehicle sales in the first half of this year were well below sales in the first half of last year (-9.6%). In fact, sales in the first half of 1995 were at their lowest level since 1983.

Monthly sales fell in each month of the first quarter of 1995. Then, when April sales plunged, the second quarter got off to a bad start. Moreover, the subsequent gains in May and June were not strong enough to offset the effects of April's weakness. Usually, the second quarter is busiest for dealers: in each of the past three years, dealers sold 31% of new vehicles during the quarter. Early industry reports suggest another downturn in July.

Note to readers

All monthly estimates and monthly changes are based on seasonally adjusted data. Estimates for the first half of 1995 are based on unadjusted data.

Trucks also include minivans, sport-utility vehicles, vans and buses.

Especially weak car sales in the first half

Passenger car sales were especially weak (-13.4%) during the first half of 1995. On average, about 54% of new passenger cars are sold in the first six months of a year (32% of new cars are sold in the second quarter alone). On an annual basis, passenger car sales rose in 1994 after eight years of declines. Industry analysts had expected the sales recovery to continue through 1995.

The decline in passenger car sales was smaller in dollar terms, however. During the first half of 1995, consumers spent 3.9% less on new cars than in the first half of 1994. New car prices, as measured by the consumer price index, rose 6% between June 1994 and June 1995.

Truck sales since February 1995 slumped below the 1994 monthly average, but were still strong compared with levels reported in 1993 and previous years. Truck sales in the first half of 1995 were 3.9% below sales in the first half of 1994.

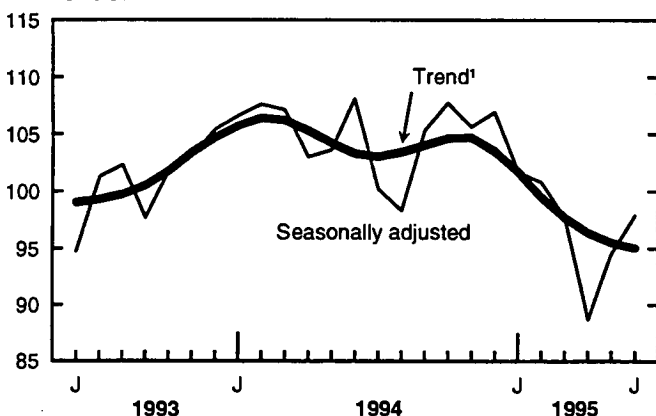
Truck sales in the first half of 1995 were strongest in Ontario and the Prairie provinces. Least affected by the first half's overall decline in truck sales were dealers in Saskatchewan, where truck purchases were little changed from the first half of 1994 (-0.4%). It may be that higher crop prices lessened the blow to Saskatchewan's truck dealers. A worldwide shortage of wheat, brought on by drought in Australia and poor crops elsewhere, has driven wheat prices to their highest level since 1981. Strong canola prices are also expected.

Consumers reduce spending on passenger cars

In dollar terms, consumer spending on new vehicles was little changed from the first half of 1994 (+0.3%). Consumers spent less on passenger cars, but truck sales rose 4.9%. More was spent on trucks in the provinces west of Quebec and in New Brunswick during the first half of 1995 than in the same period last year.

New motor vehicle sales have been sliding in 1995

'000 vehicles



¹ The short-term trend represents a moving average of the data.

New vehicle sales rose 3.6% in June, a second consecutive monthly increase. Despite the latest improvement, total sales in June remained well below the June 1994 level.

Sales of North American-made passenger cars rose 6.7% from May 1995. They accounted for about 85% of June's increase in total new vehicle sales. Sales of imported cars were little changed from May (-0.5%).

Truck sales rose 1.3% from May. Despite two consecutive months of growth, truck sales have not yet recovered from the large sales decline in April 1995.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 64.

For further information on this release, contact Mary Beth Lozinski (613-951-9824), Retail Trade Section, Industry Division.

The June 1995 issue of *New motor vehicle sales* (63-007, \$16/\$160) will be available in September. See "How to order publications".

New motor vehicle sales

	June 1994	May 1995 ^r	June 1995 ^p	June 1994 to June 1995	May 1995 to June 1995
seasonally adjusted					
				% change	
New motor vehicles	108,141	94,493	97,882	-9.5	3.6
Passenger cars	63,608	54,021	56,866	-10.6	5.3
North American ¹	49,457	43,417	46,319	-6.3	6.7
Imports	14,151	10,604	10,547	-25.5	-0.5
Trucks, vans and buses	44,533	40,472	41,016	-7.9	1.3
	June 1994	June 1995 ^p	June 1994 to June 1995	Market share	
				June 1994	June 1995
unadjusted					
			% change	%	
New motor vehicles	134,896	122,574	-9.1		
Passenger cars	80,551	73,095	-9.3	100.0	100.0
North American ¹	63,829	60,505	-5.2	79.2	82.8
Big Three	51,681	49,534	-4.2	64.2	67.8
Other	12,148	10,971	-9.7	15.1	15.0
Imports	16,722	12,590	-24.7	20.8	17.2
Big Three	2,399	1,251	-47.9	3.0	1.7
Other	14,323	11,339	-20.8	17.8	15.5
Trucks, vans and buses	54,345	49,479	-9.0	100.0	100.0
North American ¹	51,518	46,818	-9.1	94.8	94.6
Big Three	48,363	44,158	-8.7	89.0	89.2
Other	3,155	2,660	-15.7	5.8	5.4
Imports	2,827	2,661	-5.9	5.2	5.4

¹ Manufactured or assembled in Canada, the United States or Mexico.

^p Preliminary figures.

^r Revised figures

New motor vehicle sales
First half of 1995

	Cars		Trucks		Total	
	number	\$ millions	number	\$ millions	number	\$ millions
Canada	356,672	7,360.5	256,102	7,324.2	612,774	14,684.7
Newfoundland	5,990	105.9	3,399	83.6	9,389	189.5
Prince Edward Island	1,374	24.5	832	19.7	2,206	44.2
Nova Scotia	11,386	210.1	6,290	160.4	17,676	370.4
New Brunswick	9,030	166.9	7,090	200.5	16,120	367.4
Quebec	105,212	2,005.9	48,854	1,392.3	154,066	3,398.1
Ontario	139,663	3,014.7	96,393	2,766.2	236,056	5,780.9
Manitoba	8,822	182.0	9,655	287.4	18,477	469.4
Saskatchewan	6,411	132.4	9,266	270.9	15,677	403.2
Alberta	28,617	608.6	37,276	1,099.8	65,893	1,708.5
British Columbia ¹	40,167	909.5	37,047	1,043.4	77,214	1,952.9
% change from the first half of 1994						
Canada	-13.4	-3.9	-3.9	4.9	-9.6	0.3
Newfoundland	-22.9	-15.0	-14.8	-6.8	-20.2	-11.6
Prince Edward Island	-22.5	-13.7	-12.2	-9.7	-18.9	-12.0
Nova Scotia	-14.0	-4.5	-7.8	-3.2	-11.9	-4.0
New Brunswick	-13.8	-3.8	-3.0	4.0	-9.3	0.3
Quebec	-14.3	-6.0	-6.2	-0.6	-11.9	-3.9
Ontario	-15.2	-5.7	-2.1	9.4	-10.3	1.0
Manitoba	-8.9	0.8	-0.7	4.2	-4.8	2.9
Saskatchewan	-11.0	-2.0	-0.4	7.3	-5.0	4.1
Alberta	-4.7	6.3	-2.8	4.4	-3.6	5.1
British Columbia ¹	-9.0	2.2	-6.1	4.0	-7.6	3.1

¹ The Yukon and the Northwest Territories are included in the figures for British Columbia.

OTHER RELEASES

Raw materials price index, early estimate

July 1995

The raw materials price index declined an estimated 1.5% in July 1995 compared with June 1995. A 6.8% decrease in the mineral fuels index led the decline, followed by the wood index (-0.8%); these were partly offset by increases in the vegetable and animal products (+1.3%) and metals (+0.5%) indexes. Excluding mineral fuels, the index increased an estimated 0.4% in July.

This early estimate of the July 1995 index is based on partial returns and other indicators. The regular index will be published at the end of August.

For further information on this release, contact Paul-Roméo Danis (613-951-3350, fax: 613-951-2848), Client Service Unit, Prices Division. ■

Steel wire and specified wire products

June 1995

Shipments of steel wire and specified wire products totalled 70 221 tonnes in June, down 3.8% from 72 980 tonnes (revised) in June 1994. Data on production and export markets for selected commodities are also available.

Available on CANSIM: matrix 122 (series 19).

The June 1995 issue of *Steel wire and specified wire products* (41-006, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Doug Higgins (613-951-9837), Industry Division. ■

Electric storage batteries

June 1995

Manufacturers of electric storage batteries sold 136,365 automotive and heavy-duty commercial replacement batteries in June, down 18.1% from 166,580 batteries in June 1994.

For January to June 1995, shipments totalled 645,893 batteries, down 26.7% from 881,687 batteries the previous year.

Sales data for other types of storage batteries are also available.

The June 1995 issue of *Factory sales of electric storage batteries* (43-005, \$6/\$60) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Laurie Vincent (613-951-3523), Industry Division. ■

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products

Second quarter 1995

Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products totalled \$8.7 million in the second quarter 1995, an 18.8% decrease from \$10.7 million (revised) during the second quarter of 1994.

Data for the second quarter of 1995 on manufacturers' shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products are now available.

The second quarter 1995 issue of *Shipments of solid fuel-burning heating products* (25-002, \$6/\$24) will be available shortly. See "How to order publications".

For further information on this release, contact Keith Martin (613-951-3518), Industry Division. ■

PUBLICATIONS RELEASED

Gross domestic product by industry, May 1995

Catalogue number 15-001

(Canada: \$14/\$140; United States: US\$17/US\$168; other countries: US\$20/US\$196).

Industrial chemicals and synthetic resins, June 1995

Catalogue number 46-002

(Canada: \$6/\$60; United States: US\$8/US\$72; other countries: US\$9/US\$84).

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of American National Standard for Information Sciences - Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials, ANSI Z39.48 - 1984.



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The Daily
Statistics Canada

Thursday, August 10, 1995
For release on Friday

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Business departmental profiles, 1992** 1
Continued with the release for the 1992-93 period are average \$54.8 in regular payments for every \$100 of independent income. This was an increase of about 1% from 1991 in the case of regular payments in independent income.
- **Monthly survey of manufacturing, April 1995** 6
After the release of Statistics Canada, the value of manufacturing shipments grew to \$27.7 billion, up 1.7% in April over a 2.7% rise in March. The leading of output index for the month of April was 100.0.
- **Industrial production price index, May 1995** 6
Driven by higher prices for chemical and materials, the consumer price index for the month of May was 100.0, up 0.1% from April. The highest rate among provinces is the Q.C.
- **Raw materials price index, May 1995** 12
The index rose 0.4% in May. One of the most recent is 10.0% and was the major contributor to the change.

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- **Oil and gas statistics, April 1995** 10
- **Energy price statistics, April 1995** 10
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- **Energy price statistics, 1992-1995** 10

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Editor: Tim Prichard (613-951-1103)

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RELEASE DATES

Week of August 15-18
(Release dates are subject to change.)

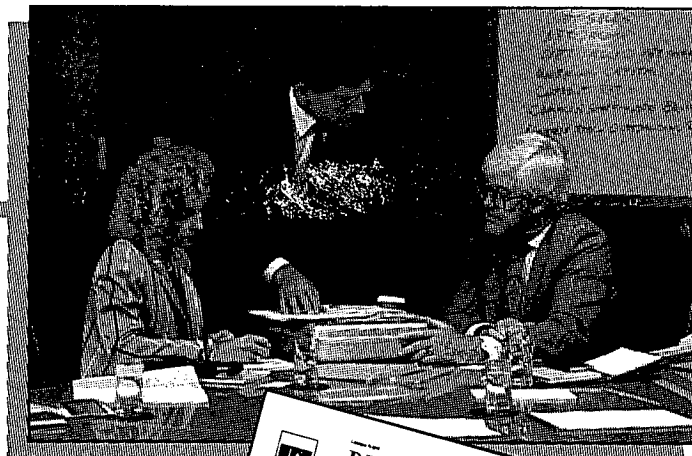
Release date	Title	Reference period
15	Migration estimates	1993-94
15	Composite index	July 1995
16	Monthly survey of manufacturing	June 1995
16	Travel between Canada and other countries	June 1995
17	Canadian international merchandise trade	June 1995
17	Film producers	1993/94
18	Canadian economic observer	August 1995

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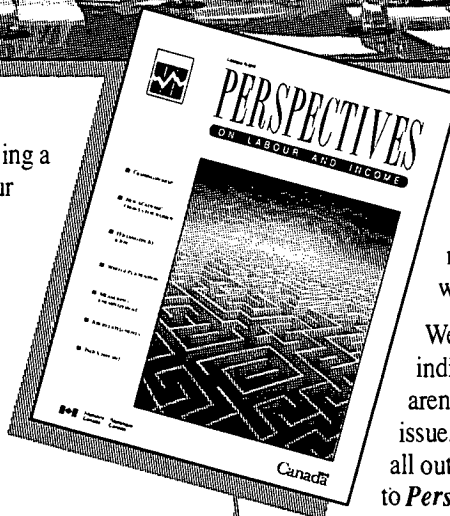
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